

PARMARTH

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji
NOVEMBER, 2015



*Pujya Swamiji's
historic tour of the USA,
including to the Parliament of
the World's Religions and
the United Nations*

Inside:



*Making History at the Parliament of
the World's Religions*



*The Sustainable Development Goals are Launched:
Meetings with the United Nations and World Bank*



*Meeting with Renowned Primatologist
Dr. Jane Goodall*

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LEARN MORE! VISIT OUR WEBSITES BY CLICKING:

www.parmarth.org (Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh),

www.pujyaswamiji.org (HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji)

www.washalliance.org (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance),

www.gangaaction.org (Ganga Action Parivar), www.projecthope-india.org (Project Hope),

www.divineshaktifoundation.org (Divine Shakti Foundation),

www.internationalyogafestival.com (The International Yoga Festival)

TOGETHER WITH THE WORLD BANK & UNITED NATIONS TO END POVERTY



Leaders of the world's foremost faith organizations gathered in September to send a loud and unique signal of solidarity in order to end global poverty as a unified force. From India, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram and Co-Founder, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance were invited and requested to speak on the auspicious occasion.

The gatherings, hosted by the World Bank, United Nations and Faith-Based Organizations including the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, signified a landmark moment in the United Nation's 70-year history, in which multi-lateral organizations and faith based organizations came together to join hands in making concrete plans for the eradication of extreme poverty and inequality.

As a lead-up to the meeting, in the spring of 2015, the World Bank brought together senior religious

WATCH IT ON VIDEO! CLICK [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=GSURtBrVPyW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSURtBrVPyW)



representatives to bring forth a document titled “The Moral Imperative,” which outlined the crucial role and responsibility of faith leaders in eradicating extreme poverty. This was followed in July by a two-day high-level conference on Religion and Sustainable Development with World Bank President, Dr. Jim Yong Kim at which Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sathvi Bhagawati Saraswati were also delegates.

At today’s meeting, the assembled declared the importance of the faiths coming together if the glaring issues of world poverty are to be solved and the soon-to-be-launched Sustainable Development Goal agenda may be met.

Every day, some 1 billion people go to bed hungry. 783 million people do not have access to clean water and almost 2.5 billion do not have access to sanitation.

Said Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Co-Founder, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “Our being together, here and now, represents a great threshold of history. Right now, this very minute, hope is in our hands. We commit to ending extreme poverty by 2030 because we recognize the world is one family, we recognize that the same Divine Spirit flows through us all, we recognize that we cannot worship the creator without protecting the creation.”

Said Sathvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “We have worked together, across all boundaries and borders of race and religion, for the last 15 years to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through your commitment, dedication and concerted effort, much has been accomplished. However, there is still much to do. It is a time for celebration, but not a time for complacency. It is a time for renewed commitment – commitment to the SDGs, commitment for the present and the future of our planet and all of our sisters and brothers with whom we share it.”

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati also led a pledge of solidarity in which all the leaders stood and held hands as he spoke, “We are united by love for humanity and our commitment to serve humanity. Together we will eradicate poverty. Together we will ensure that our global family has access to water, sanitation, hygiene, health and education. Together we will have faith, and together we will BE faith. Together the world will change.”

Leading the prayer for eradicating poverty and inequality, Sathvi Bhagawati Saraswati said, “Let us join together, in heart, mind, intention and action; let us pray and serve together so that all of our brothers

and sisters of every culture, every country, every color and every creed are free from the scourge of extreme poverty and inequality.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati also shared about the great success of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's programs at the recent Kumbha Mela in Nasik, with tens of millions of devout Hindu followers. The programs brought together revered heads of the various lineages within

Hinduism and, for the first time in history, focused on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and ending open defecation in India where approximately 1200 children under the age of five perish every day due simply to lack of water, sanitation and hygiene.

See more photos online. Click:
<http://tinyurl.com/ptamw2h>

WATCH THE PLEDGE TO END POVERTY. CLICK: [HTTPS://YOUTUBE/GSUrtBrVPYw](https://youtube.com/gsuRtBrVPYw)



HISTORIC PROCLAMATION SIGNED WITH UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND GIWA



During the week of the United Nations General Assembly Meetings in which the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda was launched, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, held a closed-door meeting in New York in which a historic declaration was approved by all parties in order to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals through partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations.

783 million people do not have access to clean water and almost 2.5 billion do not have access to sanitation, without which the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved. At the same time, over 83% of the world's population practices a faith, placing Faith-Based Organizations in a unique position to ensure dynamic change on the ground.

According to the declaration, "Every day, thousands of children die in developing countries due to the lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Taking note of this devastating fact, Faith-

Based Organizations (FBOs) and religious leaders stand committed towards the crucial WASH sector, and towards promoting peaceful, harmonious understanding and friendship in order to realize WASH goals... Thus, it has been agreed that UN Organisations and FBOs, in close association with Communities, Governments and other stakeholders, shall work together"

The declaration was signed at the Round Table meeting that had the goal of developing partnerships between United Nations Agencies and faith-based organisations, and was coordinated in cooperation with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, in order to help realize a sustainable WASH-related agenda.

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Co-Founder/ Co-Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, said, "The United Nations and Faith-Based Organizations are joining forces as never before to root out and forever eliminate the causes of the deaths of countless children due to poor water, sanitation and hygiene. The time has come for such a bold and historic move, for with so many



Signing of the declaration with Andre Dzikus, UN-Habitat

children perishing every day, time is one thing we no longer have. Together, we will not only make a spirited and memorable difference, but we will also forge closer ties of peace between the faiths as all come together in fellowship to roll up their sleeves and save lives.”

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, shared the work that GIWA was committed to doing to improve WASH for all and said, “Today, more people perish worldwide due to the lack of safe, sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) than from all forms of violence combined. Our definition of peace must expand to include ensuring that our brothers and sisters, of every country, every culture, every color and every creed, have access to life-sustaining improved WASH. Through our declaration, hands and hearts have formally united across faiths and borders to help ensure the SDGs are realized through a vision of a future in which our water is clean and our environment and lives are healthy.”

Mr. Andre Dzikus, Coordinator, Urban Basic Services, UN-Habitat welcomed everyone and shared the remarkable work that UN Habitat has been doing in collaboration with Project WET and other organizations to bring Water Education and Literacy all over the world. He also shared that according to Transparency International the amount of water lost every year due to corruption could have effectively met the MDGs. Therefore, the innovative and vital work that UN Habitat is doing is to incorporate value and ethic based approach

to water so that equal distribution and sustainability of this life giving element could be maintained for all.

Other eminent participants and speakers of the roundtable, included:

- Morgan Close, International Program Manager, Project WET
- Dinesh Suna, Coordinator, EWN, World Council of Churches
- Serik Tokbolat, Bahai Community
- Luciana Rossi, Brahma Kumaris
- Jaspal Singh, Paonta Sahib, India
- Phil Gosselin, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, USA
- as well as many others

The beautiful event also included a sacred Water Blessing Ceremony in which the participants prayed and pledged to work for access to safe and sufficient water for everyone across the planet.

Said Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati in conclusion, “The world is a world of faith, and thus hope is in all of our hands. Together, let us clasp the hands of all members of our global family, of all faiths, backgrounds, philosophies, genders and creeds, so that we may, as Mahatma Gandhi so beautifully said, ‘be the change we wish to see in this world.’”

See more photos online. Click
<http://tinyurl.com/prrkj8b>



दैनिक जागरण

ऐसे में जब भारतीय संसदों को चुनिंदा अधिकार देने में भारतवर्ष हो सकेगा तो उन्हीं अधिकारों की शक्ति अधिकृत विधायकों द्वारा ही कालो बन्ने को रोक रखा जा सकेगा। यह बातों पर होने के कारण हो जायेगी। इस दिशा में सभी संसद एक साथ काम करेंगी। सभी भाषा समारोहों में सर्वत्र साथ अधिक चुनने से ही प्रत्येक देश को सही समझ के लिये वैश्विक समझ होगा। उन्हीं कारण कि चुनने के द्वारा समझ जा, समझ के सम्मान पर समझ में समझ होगा। उन्हीं में हीन को रोक करने पर विचार होगा। उन्हीं द्वारा अधिकारों को रोक कर चुन जायु सारे समझ 1200 बन्ने अधिकारों के अन्तर्गत में हीन के मुँह में हाथ जायेगी। उन्हीं द्वारा कि भारत के प्रत्येक देश में समझ समझ के समझ समझों को रोक जायु। समझ के अन्तर्गत समझ समझ होगा।

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

Making History Through Togetherness



Over a hundred years after Swami Vivekanandaji made history at the Parliament of the World's Religions, renowned spiritual leaders of India, led by HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, traveled to Salt Lake City, USA for the world's sixth Parliament of the World's Religions, where they took a resounding stand for a Swachh Bharat and to help save our world's dwindling water resources. Approximately 10,000 leaders from 50 religious traditions and 80 nations attended. Relive the story with us in the following pages.



Pujya Swamiji inspires participants with His closing speech during the Parliament of the World's Religions



Pujya Swamiji commends the organizers of the langar at the World Parliament of World's Religions, during which all attendees of the Parliament were fed delicious meals by loving volunteers, free of cost





Puja Swamiji lauds the Chairman of the World Parliament of the World's Religions, Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, for bringing together a historic gathering



Puja Swamiji lovingly greets Dr. Michael Bernard Beckwith, Founder of the Agape International Spiritual Center



Sadhvi Bhagawati meets with the team behind Oprah Winfrey's new television series, "Belief" after a beautiful premier episode was screened at the Parliament of the World's Religions



Sadhvi Bhagawatiji connects with Rabbi David Saperstein, Ambassador at Large for Inter-religious Freedom, USA



With Rev Adam Russell Taylor, World Bank, and Dr. Michael Bernard Beckwith, Founder, Agape International Spiritual Center



With URI President, Bishop William Swing, URI Executive Director, Victor Kazanjian and URI Global Chair, Kiran Bali





Ibrahim Ahmad Abu El Hawa from Jerusalem, Israel, joyfully meets Pujya Swamiji



Mr. Fahad Abualnasr, Director General/Director of Finance and Administration, KAICIID, greets Pujya Swamiji



Leaders from the world's major faiths celebrate ahimsa and equality for all with members of the Harijan Sevak Sangh Gandhi Ashram

*The Faith Leaders of India Converge Across Religions and Geography
to Preserve our World's Water and Help Save Children's Lives*

WORSHIP FOR WASH



Every day, some 1,800 children under the age of five die for the lack of clean and healthy Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), with between 1200-1600 of those deaths happening in India. Much of this is due to the fact that some 600 million people in India still have no access to toilets, which results in the spread of disease as water resources and open spaces become contaminated.

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Co-Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, "Where there are no toilets, there is more disease. It is that simple. We can no longer sit idly as our children die unnecessary and tragic deaths for the lack of toilets. That is why India's faith leaders have flown to the other side of the world, to make a stand for great and lasting change."

Said Maulana Luqman Tarapuri, Regional President

of the Global Imam Council, "every religion lays such great stress on internal and external cleanliness, purity and respect for nature, including water and soil. I pledge to bring all Imams together to spread and share the vital message of WASH with our communities and in our homes. We must end open defecation, save and purify our water sources, and teach our children to wash hands with soap before every meal."

Said Sanjay Wijesekera, Chief of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Programme Division, UNICEF, "the lack of healthy water, sanitation and hygiene is responsible for the preventable deaths of far too many children every day. Faith leaders can play a key and important role in saving these lives through the power of their words and unified actions."

In the United States, where the Parliament was held, the pressing issue of water scarcity took center stage this

summer as California dealt with historic drought. Even worse conditions are predicted for Northern India, the world's most water-extracted region, where some 114 million people and their farms are expected to face extreme water shortages within coming years.

Said Sadhvi Bhagawati, Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, "Typically, religious leaders concern themselves primarily with prayer and ritual in order to ensure salvation, liberation or a heavenly afterlife. However, today, in India approximately 1,600 children under the age of five perish due simply to lack of WASH. Globally, more people suffer and die each year due to lack of clean water and lack of sanitation and hygiene than from all forms of violence combined. As religious leaders come together in the name of peace, it is crucial that our definition of peace expand to include protection and preservation of the environment

and working to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to safe, sufficient, water, sanitation and hygiene."

Said Imam Umar Ilyasi, President of All India Imam Organisation, "all of India's mosques, temples, churches and gurudwaras must join forces in the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's WASH Revolution."

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Co-Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, "For far too long, humanity has been playing with fate as we extract and pollute our water resources nearly to extinction. Water is life, water is sacred. Without it, none of us can survive for more than a handful of days, yet, already, we are seeing entire cities at peril as their aquifers fill with dust instead of free-flowing water, due only to the hands of mankind."



The event concluded with a beautiful, heart-felt “water blessing” ceremony, in which the faith leaders lovingly poured waters from the world’s rivers atop a shining crystal and silver globe, with prayers for healthy water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

Panel Members Included:

- **H.H. Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswati:** President, Parmarth Niketan, Co-Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- **Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi:** President, All-India Association of Imams
- **Shree Madhavpriyadas Swami:** Head of Shri Swaminaryan Gurukul, Ahmedabad
- **Bhaisahib Sukhbir Singh**
- **Bhaisahib Satpal Khalsa**
- **Maulana Luqman Tarapuri-a-Deobandi Alim:** National President, Global Imam Council (India)
- **Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni:** Founder and President, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti

- **Ven. Bhikku Sanghasena:** Founder, Mahabodhi Meditation Center, Ladakh
- **Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati:** Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- **Sanjay Wijesekera:** Chief of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Programme Division, UNICEF
- **Manisha Mishra,** Communications Specialist, UNICEF India
- **Swamini Adityananda Saraswati:** Director of Programmes, Policy and Development, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- **Nandini Tripathi:** Director of Programme Implementation, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

Said Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, “We can no longer turn a blind eye to the fact that our water is disappearing. Every moment of inaction drives us deeper into a future that is threatened and bleak. Instead, we must inspire and unite across religions, cultures and geographic boundaries for historic and lasting change.”



SEE MORE PHOTOS

[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/WASH-PANEL](http://tinyurl.com/wash-panel)

WATCH THE SESSION ONLINE:

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/75647556>

The Divine Feminine and Mother Earth **SHAKTI & PRAKRITI**



Eminent women faith leaders and renowned environmentalist, Dr. Vandana Shiva, combined forces at the Parliament of the World's Religions Friday, October 16 to discuss the sacred relationship between the Divine Feminine and Mother Earth, and actionable steps women can and must take to protect and restore our world's natural resources.

The special session on Shakti & Prakriti - the Divine Feminine and Mother Earth- was organized by Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Divine Shakti Foundation, United Religions Initiative and Temple of

Understanding

Around the world, in almost all cultures and religious traditions, the women have deep connections with the Earth – both spiritually as well as logistically. Women are the ones who perform most of the prayers and rituals to and for the Earth in many traditions, and they are the most impacted by environmental degradation. As our land resources and water resources dwindle, as deforestation and climate change cause irreparable damage to natural habitats, women must travel greater distances to fetch water and cooking fuel, and financial



security is significantly impacted as farms, kitchen gardens and access to natural resources deplete. Matters are expected to worsen due to increasing threats from global climate change, pollution, population growth, and the exhaustion of water, soil, forest and other resources.

Panelists discussed the role of the Divine Feminine in her connection to Mother Earth and Mother Nature in the different traditions and empower the audience to seek a new balance in spiritual and public lives, to experience a renewal of our own creative life force and build new pathways. Insightful details were presented as to how audience members can inspire and launch their own programmes within their congregations and communities for the betterment of all.

The panel was being organized by Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Divine Shakti Foundation, in cooperation with United Religions Initiative and the Temple of Understanding.

Said Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, President of the

Divine Shakti Foundation, and Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance : “The relationship between women and the earth is ancient and sacred. Today, we look at the crucial relationship between the Divine Feminine, the Shakti, the feminine energy in each of us, and our responsibility to channel that energy to protect and preserve our Mother Nature and Mother Earth.”

Panelists Included:

- **Dr. Vandana Shiva**, World-Acclaimed Environmentalist
- **Marianne Williamson**, Internationally Acclaimed Author and Speaker
- **Dr. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati**, President, Divine Shakti Foundation
- **Mary Evelyn Tucker**, Co-Founder, Co-Director, Yale Forum on Ecology
- **Kiran Bali, MBE JP**, Global Chair, United Religions Initiative
- **Grove Harris**, Representative to the United Nations, Temple of Understanding



WATCH THE SESSION
ONLINE:

[http://www.ustream.tv/
recorded/75577301](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/75577301)

SEE MORE PHOTOS:

<http://tinyurl.com/shakti-panel>

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU



Renowned Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Jain leaders made history at the Parliament of the World's Religions, pledging to combat climate change through the power of faith, organized and led by the Global Interfaith WASH alliance.

Thirteen of the warmest years on record have occurred since 2000. At the same time, natural calamities are increasing in force and severe water shortages are being noted in places of former abundance.

The revered interfaith leaders focused specifically, emphatically and passionately on choices and decisions each of us makes in our lives every day which either exacerbate or mitigate climate change.

Participating Faith Leaders Included:

- **H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati:** President, Parmarth Niketan and Co-Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- **Rev. Michael Bernard Beckwith:** Founder and Director, Agape Spiritual Ministries
- **Shree Madhavpriyadas Swami:** Head of Shri Swaminaryan Gurukul, Ahmedabad





- **Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi:** President, All-India Association of Imams
- **Bhai Sahib Satpal Khalsa**
- **Maulana Luqman Tarapuri-a-Deobandi Alim:** National President, Global Imam Council (India)
- **Dharma Master Hsin Tao:** Founder and President of the Museum of World Religions
- **Dr. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati:** Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- **Rabbi Yonatan Neril:** Executive Director, Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development
- **Dr. Binny Sareen** of the Brahmakumaris

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram and Co-Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “God has given us each the veto power. The future of the planet is in your hands. We must live simply so that others may simply live. We must shift our focus from greed to need and from speed to direction! In the face of glaring evidence, one can no longer deny the crisis of global warming, nor that the state of the health of our Mother Earth and all those with whom we share it, will quickly worsen unless dramatic actions are taken by each of us, every day. That is why leaders of our world’s faiths came together today

to announce their commitments as a unified force for a healthy Earth.”

The world is one of faith, in which over 83% of the world’s population practices a religion. This places faith-based organizations in a unique position to ensure dynamic change on the ground.

Prior to their formal pledges, faith leaders shared insights that personal choices can lead to significant impacts on the future health of our planet. Among the most startling of revelations was the United Nations calculation that the climate emissions of greenhouse gases from the livestock industry is nearly 20 percent of the global total. This is more than cars, planes and all other forms of transport put together.

Said Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “Most of us look only toward our governments to preserve our planet, to solve the climate change crisis. We sign petitions and go on marches. But there is much more we can do. Everything we eat, everything we buy and everything we wear has a direct impact on our Earth and all our brothers and sisters across the planet.”



Rabbi Yonatan Neril emphasized: “We must demand that faith leaders speak on these issues for our environment. The more they talk about climate change, the more people will think about it and take action to mitigate it.”

Rev. Michael Bernard Beckwith shared: “If everyone takes baby steps every day, beginning with a revolution of our forks, it will make a mighty and lasting difference. Let us not only just have a sustainable relationship with our planet, but rather let’s have a blissful one, leaving behind footprints of beauty.”

Imam Umer Ahmed Iliasi, president of the All India Imam’s Association and Imam Luqman Tarapuri, the regional president of the Global Imam Council, both

expressed their full commitment on a personal level as well as on behalf of their large organizations and all of the imams to work together for this great cause, to mitigate climate change through our choices, through our actions, and through our decisions. They both said they would take this message back to their communities and their congregations to bring about a great change in the Muslim communities of India and the world. They both pledged to bring all of the imams together to pray, to preach and to work to protect and preserve the planet.

Satpal Singh Khalsa said: “what we do today will bear results for future generations. People trust religious leaders more than anyone else. They must combine forces for change.”

WATCH THE SESSION ONLINE:

[http://www.ustream.tv/
recorded/75704976](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/75704976)

SEE MORE PHOTOS:

<http://tinyurl.com/climate-panel>



THE WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS



During a beautiful session on the first day of the Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, a session themed 'Religious and Spiritual Sources of Inspiration and Empowerment for Women' was held to empower women everywhere to be the change that they want to see in the world.

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji spoke on a panel with the following beautiful and renowned women:

- Marianne Williamson, internationally acclaimed spiritual author and lecturer
- Phyllis Curott, attorney, author, Vice-Chair of the Parliament and Chair of the Women's Task Force
- Bishop Dr. Barbara King, Founder Minister/World Spiritual Leader of Hillside International Truth Center, Inc.
- Charlene Spretnak - Author is one of the founding mothers of the Women's Spirituality movement



WATCH THE VIDEO:

[HTTP://WWW.USTREAM.TV/RECORDED/75577301](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/75577301)

SEE MORE PHOTOS:

[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/WOMEN-ASSEMBLY](http://tinyurl.com/women-assembly)



ACTION: His Holiness Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji (fourth from right) and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati (right) with other faith leaders at the water blessing ceremony during the Parliament of the World's Religions event

'Water is life, it is sacred'

PROMISES TO PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCE AT INTER-FAITH EVENT

FAITH leaders from all around the world gathered at the "Parliament of the World's Religions" in the United States in a bid to save the world's dwindling water resources.

Around 10,000 spiritual leaders from 50 religious traditions and 80 nations were present at the historic event which took place last Thursday (15) to last Sunday (19) at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. It was the world's sixth Parliament of the World's Religions.

Globally, more people perish each year from lack of clean, safe, sufficient water, hygiene and sanitation than from all forms of violence combined, the event heard.

Every day, some 1,800 children under the age of five die due to the lack of clean and healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), with approximately 1,200-1,600 such deaths in India.

Much of this is due to the fact that some 600 million people in India still have no access to toilets, which results in the spread of dis-

ease as water resources and open spaces become contaminated.

His Holiness, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji HH Pujya Muniji, co-chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, said: "Where there are no toilets, there is more disease. It is that simple. We can no longer sit idly as our children die unnecessary and tragic deaths for the lack of toilets."

"That is why India's faith leaders have flown to the other side of the world, to make a stand for great and lasting change."

He added: "For far too long, humanity has been playing with fate as we extract and pollute our water resources nearly to extinction. Water is life, water is sacred. Without it, none of us can survive for more than a handful of days, yet already, we are seeing entire cities at peril as their aquifers fill with dust instead of free-flowing water, due only to the hands of mankind."

Sanjay Wijesekera, chief of water, sanitation and hygiene, programme

division, at Unicef said: "The lack of healthy water, sanitation and hygiene is responsible for the preventable deaths of far too many children every day. Faith leaders can play a key and important role in saving these lives through the power of their words and unified actions."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, secretary general, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, said it was crucial that religious leaders focus on taking care of the environment.

"Typically, religious leaders concern themselves primarily with prayer and ritual in order to ensure salvation, liberation or a heavenly afterlife. As religious leaders come together in the name of peace, it is crucial that our definition of peace expand to include protection and preservation of the environment and working to ensure everyone, everywhere has access to safe, sufficient, water, sanitation and hygiene."

Said Imam Umar Ilyasi, president of All India Imam Organisation said that all of India's mosques, temples,

churches and gurdwaras must join forces to tackle the problem. "On behalf of almost 500,000 Muslims of India, we stand together with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance in this crucial mission," he said.

Said Maulana Logman Tarapuri, regional president of the Global Imam Council explained that "every religion" laid importance on internal and external cleanliness, purity and respect for nature, including water and soil.

"I pledge to bring all Imams together to spread and share the vital message of WASH with our communities and in our homes. We must end open defecation, save and purify our water sources, and teach our children to wash hands with soap before every meal," he said.

The event concluded with a "water blessing" ceremony, in which the faith leaders poured waters from the world's rivers atop a shining crystal and silver globe, with prayers for healthy water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

Saints pledge to conserve water

FAITH leaders from all around the world gathered at the 'Parliament of the World's Religions' in a bid to save the World's Dwindling Water Resources.

Around 10,000 spiritual leaders from 50 religious traditions and 80 nations were present at the historic event which took place last Thursday (October 15) to Sunday (October 19) at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, US.

It was the world's sixth Parliament of the World's Religions.

Globally, more people perish each year from lack of clean, safe, sufficient water, hygiene and sanitation than from all forms of violence combined.

Every day, some 1,000 children under the age of five die due to the lack of clean and healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), with approximately 1200-1600 deaths in India.

Much of this is due to the fact that some 900 million people in India still have no access to toilets, which results in the spread of disease as water resources and open spaces become contaminated.

His Holiness (HH) Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiiji (HH Pujya Nimitti), co-chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, said: 'Where there are no toilets, there is more disease. It is that simple. We can no longer sit idly as our children die unnecessarily and tragic deaths for the lack of toilets. That is why India's faith leaders have flown to the other side of the world, to



Holy row: HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiiji (centre) and Sadhuji Bhagwanaji (right) with other religious leaders in the US last week.

make a stand for great and lasting change.'

He added: 'For far too long, humanity has been playing with fate as we extract and pollute our water resources nearly to extinction. Water is life, water is sacred. Without it, none of us can survive for more than a handful of days, yet, already, we are seeing entire cities at peril as their aquifers fill with dust instead of free-flowing water due only to the hands of mankind.'

Sanjay Wloosekera, chief of water, sanitation and hygiene programme division at UNICEF said: 'The lack of healthy water, sanitation and hygiene is responsible for the preventable deaths of far too many children every day. Faith leaders can play a key and important role in saving these lives through the power of their words and unified actions.'

Secretary general, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Sad-

huji Bhagwanji Saraswati, said it was crucial that religious leaders focus on taking care of the environment.

'Typically, religious leaders concern themselves primarily with prayer and ritual in order to ensure salvation, liberation or a heavenly afterlife. As religious leaders come together in the name of peace, it is crucial that our definition of peace expand to include protection and preservation of the environment and working to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to safe, sufficient, water, sanitation and hygiene.'

President of All India Imam Organisation, Sali Imam Umar Uyyat, said all of India's mosques, temples, churches and gurudwaras must join forces to tackle the problem.

'On behalf of almost 200,000 imams of India, we stand together with the Global Interfaith

WASH Alliance in this crucial moment,' he said.

Said Maulana Luqman Tarnapuri, regional president of the Global Imam Council, explained that 'every religion' laid importance on internal and external cleanliness, purity and respect for nature, including water and soil.

'I pledge to bring all Imams together to spread and share the vital message of WASH with our communities and in our homes. We must end open defecation, save and purify our water sources, and teach our children to wash hands with soap before every meal.'

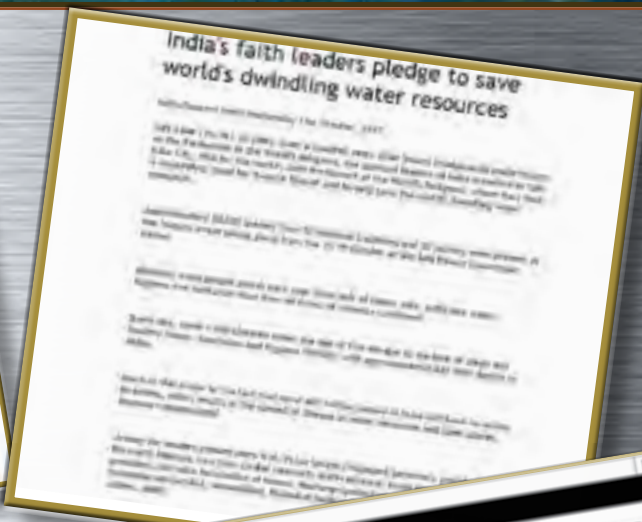
The event concluded with a 'water blessing' ceremony in which the faith leaders poured waters from the world's rivers atop a shining crystal and silver globe, with prayers for healthy water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

Pension plan

Small businesses who employ fewer than 30 workers are set to join the government's workplace pension scheme.

Staff will receive a letter or e-mail from their workplace explaining the programme, and since they have been enrolled, a small percentage of their salary will go straight into the pension.

It will include contributions paid in by the employer but staff will have the choice to opt out. The full basic state pension in 2015-16 is £11,559 a week. * For more information go to www.workplacepensions.gov.uk



SEE MORE ARTICLES FROM THE
PARLIAMENT!
CLICK: WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG

MEETING WITH DR. JANE GOODALL *at Parliament of World's Religions*



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji met with famed Primatologist, Dr. Jane Goodall at the Parliament of World's Religions and discussed issues ranging from environmental preservation, climate change, and conservation of biodiversity.

Pujya Swamiji shared with her the numerous initiatives Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Ganga Action Parivar and the Divine Shakti Foundation were engaged in to serve in these areas. They both agreed that there could be a plan A and a plan B but there could not be a planet B and discussed several ways in which they could work together for a better, more sustainable future for all.



CELEBRATING DIVINE MOTHER ON HOLY NAVARATRI IN LOUISVILLE



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji were warmly welcomed to the Hindu Temple in Louisville, Kentucky, by the residents and devotees. The priests expressed their gratitude for Pujya Swamiji's care, compassion and concern towards the temple from the very beginning of the temple's formation. Pujya Swamiji offered a beautiful sacred green Bhel sapling as a symbol and reminder to celebrate the Navratri festival as a Green festival.

The evening satsang began with the divine chanting of the sacred Rudram and beautiful mantras of Lord Shiva to welcome Pujya Swamiji.

Sadhvi spoke on how to perform our actions and what kind of actions we can perform so that we fill our lives with joy and purpose.

She explained, "Pujya Swamiji shared a beautiful mantra with me when I first came to Rishikesh, nearly 20 years ago. He said that we must 'engage ourselves in

Karma, under the shade of Dharma, with an awareness of Brahman." She elaborated, "According to Bhagawan Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita, we cannot abstain from acting. Even when we restrain our bodies, our minds are still acting. So the question becomes HOW we act, WHO we see the as the do-er, for WHOM we are acting and the intention of each action."

She said that actions should be free of expectation and attachment with an awareness that we are truly just instruments of the divine grace. However, this is often not an easy task because of our addiction to distraction, our sense of doing rather than being, the ego and desires often are in the way. She explained the second part of the mantra, "Perform your karma under the shade of dharma with an awareness of Bhraman."

Later, Pujya Swamiji enlightened those present by sharing, "Need, greed and speed requires direction and discretion."



Our scriptures have always said God pervades everything, is everywhere, as Sadhviiji just shared so beautifully, and continues by telling us to renounce and rejoice in our actions. Perform your actions not with any expectation or attachment to the fruits of your actions and never hoard that which is not yours. Our scripture also shares that nothing is really ours anyways, we don't bring anything into this world and we won't be able to take anything with us."

He gave the example of Alexander the Great, who conquered everything but ordered that in his coffin his hands were to be left out as a symbol that the greatest ruler had yet to conquer his own self. Pujya Swamiji shared that a life of simplicity, with the full awareness of this truth, of purity, of Bhakti (devotion/ divine love) is the best way to experience God's Divine Grace in our lives.



SEE MORE PHOTOS:
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/LOUISVILLE-SATSANG](http://tinyurl.com/louisville-satsang)



CELEBRATING NAVARATRI *in Indiana, USA*



Divine Satsang at the home of Dr. Bharatbhai and Pannaben Barai, with the members of the Bharatiya Temple Executive Committee

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji gave a special satsang during the auspicious occasion of Navratri at the Bharatiya Temple of NWI in Merriville, Indiana (near Chicago).

Sadhviiji started the satsang by saying, “What is the light that we are talking about in this theme of today’s satsang ‘Celebrating the Light.’ It’s not just the external light of the light bulb or the magnificent light of the Sun that allows us to see the world. Because our sight of the world is so different from another person’s vision of that same light or from any other creatures vision. So what is the light that truly helps us see the truth? That is the inner light.” She discussed the nature of the darkness and then how to connect with our true inner light.

Pujya Swamiji shared so beautifully, “Celebrating Light is Celebrating Life. He shared the mantra of ‘Asatoma, Sadgamaya...’ and this mantra doesn’t talk about the light outside but it speaks about the inner light, the inner truth. Because while it is beautiful to have 24 hr electricity, often times with these comforts and utilities we are not able to

utilize our life. Often we have so much pain and suffering in our lives. But the rishis and the sages constantly remind us to not get stuck in this external light but turn to the inner light.” He reminds participants of the reminders and examples that illustrate to us where to look for the true light and how to sustain it so that it burns brightly in our hearts, in our minds and our souls.

He also met with the Temple Committee to plan how to engage, involve and inspire the youth and the younger generation so that they can understand and share the wealth of wisdom and grounding that comes from their cultural heritage. The planning included establishing ‘Priest Training Institutes’ so that priests can be educated and engaged to understand their culture and to share it with others in new, innovative, relevant and practical ways.

He gave everyone a beautiful and sacred sapling of Bhelpatra as a symbol of celebrating a green and sustainable Navratri.



WATCH PUJYA SWAMIJI'S INSPIRING
SATSANG/TALK IN HINDI
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/ZOMVZ1OoAAQ...](https://youtu.be/ZOMVZ1OoAAQ...)

WATCH SADHVI BHAGAWATIJI'S
INSPIRING SATSANG/TALK IN ENGLISH:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/E-2 CG-EZ Q...](https://youtu.be/e-2 CG-EZ Q...)

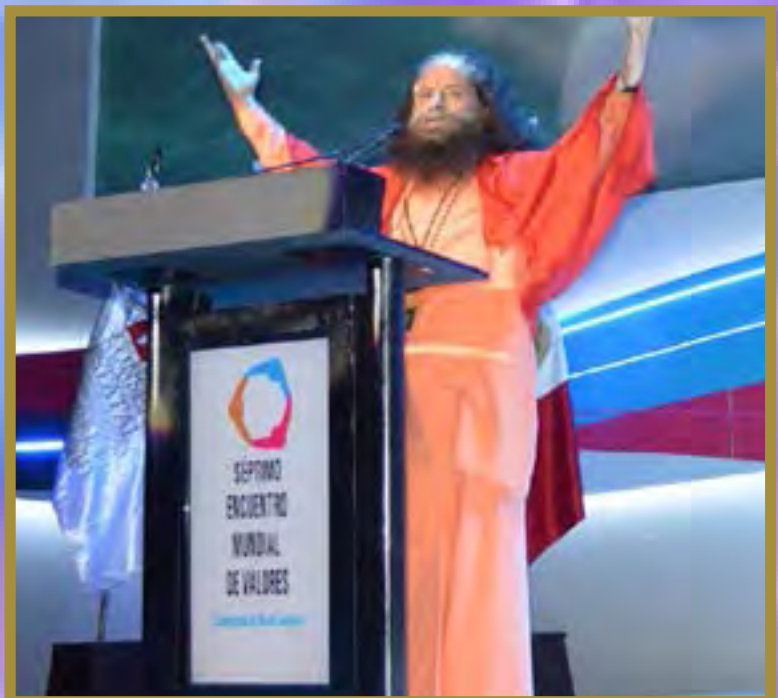


UPLIFTMENT IN MEXICO AT THE GLOBAL MEETING ON HUMAN VALUES



The Seventh Annual Worldwide Meeting on Human Values took place in Monterrey, Mexico, in which HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh, India) and Co-Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation and Secretary-General of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, were warmly welcomed as Spiritual Leaders and keynote speakers. They led two special programs on “Love and Consciousness in Action” with founder/President of Organic India, Shri Bharat Mitra, one was a main keynote address and the other a longer, in depth, interactive workshop.

Pujya Swamiji also led a special prayer for our brothers and sisters in regions of Mexico affected by the recent hurricane, Patricia which was taking place at the time of this function. He reminded those in attendance that it is





times of natural disaster that we must all be called into action to prevent massive disasters and to realign our lives so that they can be in harmony with Mother Nature.

Pujya Swamiji said, “Oneness is the key. We must live our lives in peace not pieces, being better not bitter. We need to understand that in a world of Facebook we must face our own book, see where we stand, asking ourselves, ‘How have we served our global family with our thoughts, words and actions?’”

He continued, “We can connect to the internet but must not forget our divine innernet, because as Mahatma Gandhiji said, “There is no point in moving so fast if we are moving in the wrong direction.’ We must ensure that while we expand technologically we also must expand in our consciousness and stay grounded to our common human values, which is so incredibly crucial for our sustainable, harmonious and holistic future.”

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji said, “There is no compassion and love without action. When you truly love then you recognize the other as self, as one with you. Therefore, to serve the

self becomes natural and obvious. Hence, expansion of our Global Consciousness is crucial to ensuring that none of our brothers and sisters are ever left without food, shelter, water and the basic necessities needed to survive.”

In this spirit, she led everyone in a beautiful meditation, in both the keynote address and also the workshop.

Additionally at the final. Concluding event of the full conference, she led all the speakers and organizers in a special water blessing ceremony, which was blessed by Pujya Swamiji, and reminded those present of the need to reaffirm our commitment to work for safe and sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Bharat Mitra said, “All sectors of society, especially the corporate and business sector, must come forward not only to make profit but to know that the well-being of their brothers and sisters, all their employees and clients is intimately inter-linked to their own growth. Therefore, compassion in action and love in action is crucial and sustainable for the business sector. My company, Organic India, has the mission of being a vehicle of consciousness and we are glad to be working with Pujya Swamiji and



Sadhvi to impact and help more farmers and individuals in need.”

Other renowned speakers and presenters at the conference included:

Ms. Mary Robinson, Ireland, Former President of Ireland and UN Special Envoy for Climate Change

Dr. Bruce H. Lipton, Ph.D, USA, Developmental Biologist, author of “The Biology of Belief”

Mr. Justin Rosenstein co-founder of Asana and OneProject.org, along with Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz.

Ms. Barbara Marx Hubbard, EUA, Evolutionist and Author

Mr. Ervin Lazlo, systems philosopher, integral theorist, and classical pianist, Founder and Former President of the Club of Budapest

Ms. Rama Jyoti Vernon, USA, Founder of the California Yoga Teacher’s Association and Publisher of the Yoga Journal

Mr. Ted Chu, eminent economist from the World Bank,

Ms. Sandra De Castro Buffington, Leader for Social Change of Entertainment

And many other esteemed dignitaries in their respective fields.



See more photos online. Click
<http://tinyurl.com/pks2wr3>

NAMAMI GANGE CONFERENCE

with Hon'ble Sadhvi Umashri Bhartiji



The Ministry of Ganga Rejuvenation and Water Resources held a special Namami Gange Conference at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh). Members of the BJP Ganga Cell of all the states from which the River Ganga passes. Hon'ble Minister Umashri Bhartiji with Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhai, National Vice President of BJP, Mr Trivendra Singh Rawat, National Convenor Namami Gange and many others.

The discussions included plans to work together to end pollution of the sacred national river, planned organic farming on both sides of the riverbed, as well as wide-scale involvement of civil society and people to ensure that the River remains clean, green and serene.

There was also a beautiful hands on clean up programme, engaging all participants to take their discussions into action and reaffirm their pledge to restore Mother Ganga.



The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015 ■ UTTARAKHAND EDITION

Namami Gange will show results in coming yrs: Uma

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 11 Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti today asserted that the Namami Gange programme of the Union Government will start delivering positive results in the coming years.

Bharti was addressing a workshop on the Ganga cleanliness programme at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, today.

She said the Union Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was totally committed to making the Ganga neat and clean. The Union Water Resources Ministry had prepared a comprehensive work plan to ensure cleanliness in the Ganga, she said.

She asserted that all the state governments and political parties concerned were actively cooperating



Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti says the Centre is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the success of the Namami Gange programme in Rishikesh on Sunday. A TRIBUNE PHOTOGRAPH

in the Namami Gange programme. The Centre was providing funds to the state governments for the pro-

gramme in 70 to 30 ratio, but now the Centre would be contributing the entire 100 per cent amount for the

programme. The participation of the NGOs was also being ensured in the programme, she stated.

The Union Minister said while the Centre was for cleanliness of the Ganga, it would not interfere in people's faith of conducting the last rites of their deceased relatives on the banks of the holy river. She added that the Centre had prepared a work plan for starting organic agriculture along the Ganga banks. The Central Government would leave no stone unturned to ensure that the Ganga became totally pollution free, Uma Bharti added.

BJP national vice-president Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, national convener of Namami Gange Trivendra Singh Rawat and Dr Hridayanath Singh also addressed the workshop.

In Very Loving Memory of Beloved HH PUJYA SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATIJI



HH Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, one of the most renowned and beloved saints of India attained Mahasamadhi yesterday at his ashram in Rishikesh.

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh and Co-Founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati was a great inspiration for this world. Through his timeless wisdom, humour and compassionate approach, he brought the holy teachings of the Vedas to the masses, so that they could be realized and lived in the hearts of all. He will be greatly missed. He was truly a global Guru, a giant and a genius who selflessly served as the divine vessel to bring not only the timeless teachings but also the divine touch of love, light & laughter to all”

Said Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation and Secretary General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “He was a precious and peerless treasure-chest of wisdom and light. Being in his presence itself was such a gift, such a blessing. He was the highlight of our International Yoga Festival each year at Parmarth, bringing such clarity, depth and inspiration to seekers of every walk of life from across the globe..”

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, “The light that Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati shined on this world shall never dim. His teachings are eternal and shall live forever more in the hearts and minds of his disciples and admirers, for generation after generation, like a rose, forever shedding fragrance as the sun gives warmth.”

A GLOBAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

PRAYER FOR EVERYONE LIGHT THE WAY TOWARD PEACE

September 24, 2015

Parmarth Niketan Ashram Rishikesh

#PrayerForEveryone #LightTheWay #GlobalGoals



THE GLOBAL GOALS



#PrayerForEveryone
#LightTheWay was observed at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) during the divine evening Ganga Aarti ceremony on 24 September, 2015. Joined by millions of our global family around the world, our Aarti lamps were lit at sunset to Light the Way for a better future for people and the planet! Prayers and encouragement were offered, reminding us that we each can indeed make a difference by the actions that we take.

This event preceded and honoured World Leaders adopting the Global Goals for Sustainable Development by 2030 on 25 September 2015 and was to encourage those leaders to:

- End extreme poverty
- Fight inequality and injustice
- Combat climate change



GLOBAL TOGETHERNESS: SEE MORE ON VIDEO!



A Tribute to Late HE President APJ Abdul Kalamji at the Parliament of the World's Religions

<https://youtu.be/Z-i1gbIFfhE>

Leaders from the world's major faiths saluted Former Indian President's divine service to a vision of interfaith harmony in India and the world as well as his legacy of being the Missile Man with a Mission of Peace and Unity

What is a Water Blessing Ceremony?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N98bAI7aTig>

A Prayer for Mother Earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9SrShztgIU>

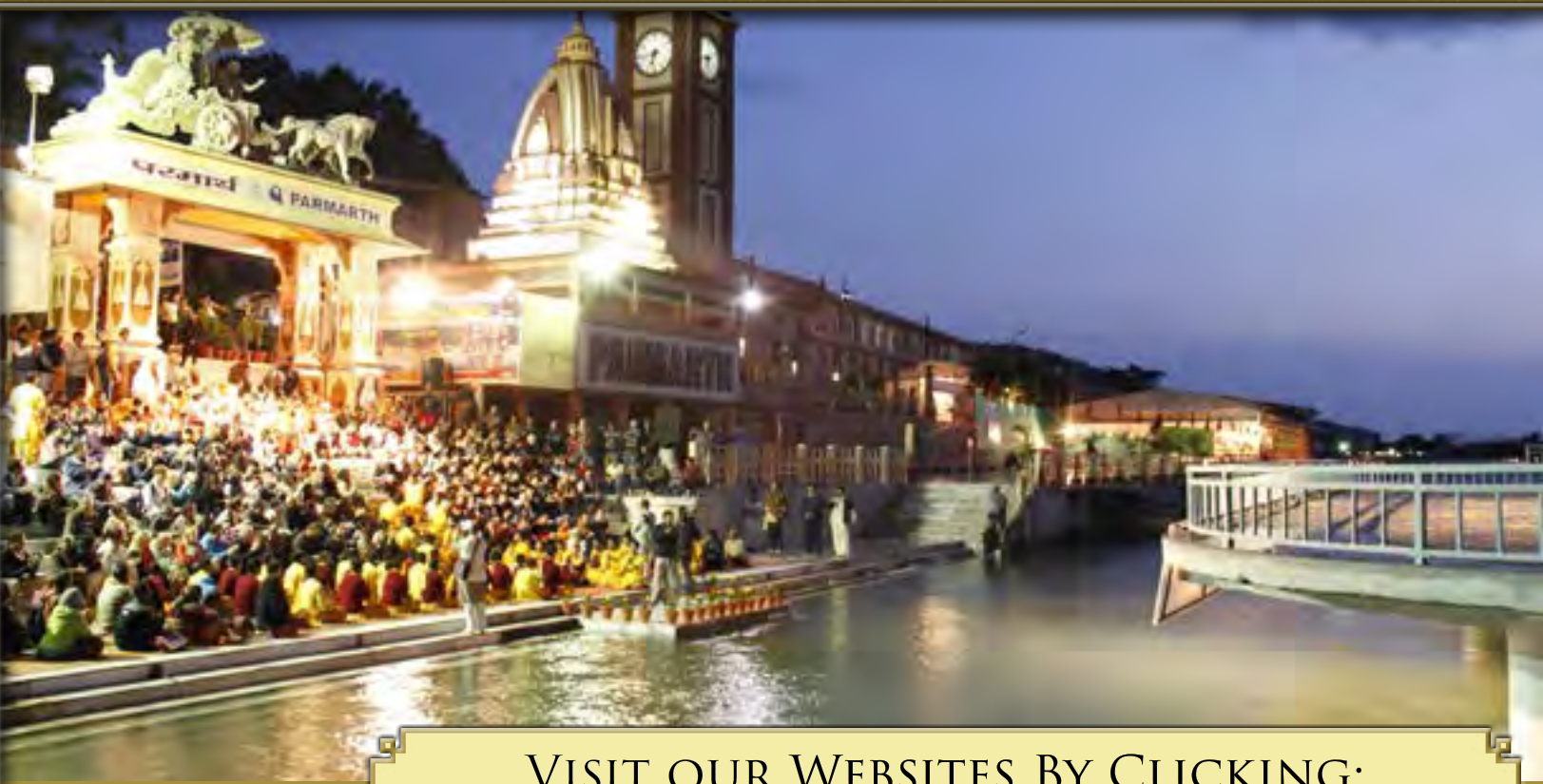
Song of Peace with Children at the Parliament of the World's Religions

<https://youtu.be/Xku0T1HroRY>

Langar 'Faith and Food converge at the 2015 Parliament of World's Religions <http://tinyurl.com/opsse7r>

Reception with the leaders of the United Religions Initiative <http://tinyurl.com/pn4z5sz>

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